



1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2402
PHONE 202.783.0800
FAX 202.383.6610
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: FOSSE, Tore *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/681,403

Confirmation No.: 3278

Filed: March 29, 2001

For: VEHICLE STEERING WHEEL ARRANGEMENT

Group Art Unit: 3616

Examiner: DRAPER, Deanna L.

Atty. Dkt. No.: 07574.0082.PCUS00

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2003

GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE of HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any attachments referred to herein are being hand delivered to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Arlington, Virginia 22202 on **18 March 2003**.

Daniel Hernandez

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
FILED WITH A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

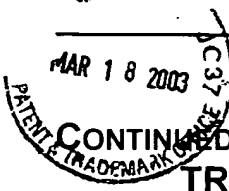
INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

The following is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 18, 2002, for which the three-month date for response is March 18, 2003. As this response is timely, it is not believed that any fees are required. However, if any fees are necessary in connection with this response, this Office is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 08-3038, Order No. 07574.0082.PCUS00. This response is being submitted in the revised amendment format pursuant to the provisions contained in the Notice signed January 31, 2003.



Serial No.: 09/681,403
Confirmation No.: 3278
Applicant: FOSSE, Tore *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: 07574.0082.PCUS00

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/681,403
Filing Date	03/29/2001
Examiner Name	DRAPER
First Named Inventor	FOSSE
Group Art Unit	3616
Attorney Docket Number	07574.0082.PCUS00

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.
NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

- Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a. ☐ Previously submitted

i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____. (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
iii. ☐ Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
iv. ☒ Other Postcard.
- Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____
- Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-3038 Order 07574.0082.PCUS00.

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

RECEIVED
MAR 21 2003
GROUP 3600

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print /Type)	Tracy W. Druce	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	35,493
Signature		Date	03/18/2003

CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand delivered to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Arlington, Virginia 22202 on this date: <u>03/18/2003</u>			
Typed or printed name	Daniel Hernandez		
Signature		Date	3/18/2003

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.